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November 13, 2013

The Honorable Victoria Veltri  
Project Director, State Health Care Innovation Plan  
Office of the State Healthcare Advocate  
P. O. Box 1543  
Hartford CT, 06144

Re: Healthcare Innovation Plan Draft 1.1

Dear Attorney Veltri,

I am writing to comment on the Connecticut Healthcare Innovation Plan.

Chiropractic healthcare is a naturally based healing art discipline to address and care for the whole person. Chiropractic practice is not limited to a particular region or system of the person. Chiropractic practitioners are trained as physicians in primary care and may through post graduate training further their primary care expertise in pediatrics and/or internal disorders and/or train in a specialty including but not limited to industrial and occupational health, orthopedics, neurology, radiology, physical rehabilitation, sports chiropractic, nutrition and acupuncture. Chiropractic physicians may also advance their training in particular techniques of care such as but not limited to motion palpation, activator technique, applied kinesiology and sacro-occipital technique. The profession, since 1916 in Connecticut, provides naturally based whole person centered primary, generalist and specialty care for persons of all ages.

The Innovation Plan exclaims a "Vision of the future" that seeks to establish:  
*"By 2020, Connecticut will establish a whole-person-centered health system that ensures superior healthcare quality and access, promotes value over volume, eliminates health inequities for all of Connecticut, and improves affordability."*

The process of this Plan is entirely near sighted and clearly not "whole-person-centered" without the full representation of all Healing Arts Practitioners; especially the naturally based whole person centered primary care professions of chiropractic and naturopathy. As the chiropractic and naturopathic professions provide primary, generalist and specialty care for persons of all ages it is expected in our democratic society to include these professions when establishing health care policy that affects the general population in order to assure individual liberty and self determination is protected in public and/or private health care policy. There are no chiropractic or naturopathic physicians on the Health Care Cabinet, the State Health Care Innovation Planning Steering Committee, the Core Planning Team, the State Agency Program Planners or any of the Work Groups that created this Draft which, when the Draft is enacted, will affect all Connecticut residents through their public and/or private health care

November 13, 2013

Victoria Veltri

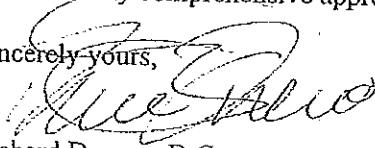
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services paid through taxation, private insurance premium and deductible/co-payment costs. There are 135 member positions of the Cabinet, Steering Committee, Planning Team and Work Groups with at least 34 Medical Doctors. Many other members are affiliated with a medical institution and thus clearly increase the influence of the medical profession upon the development and implementation of the policy. Chiropractic and naturopathic physicians are entirely excluded from this process. This organization from the Health care Cabinet to each Working Group clearly cannot be representative of the fair trade of the healing arts, good science and the free will of the Connecticut citizen to select their physician in accord with their way of life.

In the practice of chiropractic a primary objective is to adjust the physical body to restore the ability of the individual to sense and respond to the environment thus improving their state of health. I submit this governmental initiative must be adjusted to restore the organization membership's ability to sense and respond to the individual and general public's rights to the utilization of the full scope of practice of all healing arts practitioners. I respectfully submit the process must be adjusted with the full inclusion of chiropractic and naturopathic representatives at all levels of the policy making groups from the Health Care Cabinet to all Working Groups.

The people of Connecticut deserve a comprehensive health care system. If a system is to be planned by government, then let it be planned by a comprehensive health care team of Healing Arts Practitioners. I urge you to immediately recruit representatives of the chiropractic and naturopathic professions to restore a truly comprehensive approach to healthcare for all persons in Connecticut.

Sincerely yours,

  
Richard Duenas, D.C.

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